



Key Notes

Tips and Tools for Presidents

Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, GFWC Illinois Leadership Chairman

Debbie Monteith, GFWC Illinois Leadership Junior Chairman

Ahoy Mates!

A ship requires much skill in both operating and leading.

Let's explore the world of a Captain/Club President with some tips and tools to be a better leader of the vessel.

Lead by example. Leaders need to show, not just tell. If you want to start a meeting on time, you need to be on time.

A little humility goes a long way. Share the spotlight and credit others.

Communicate effectively. Make sure you are heard and understood, but also know the importance of listening to your members

Keep meetings productive. If you trust your club members to do their job, there should be no micromanaging.

Find a mentor. The best leaders out there know when they need help and they know where to turn to in order to get it. Nobody can know everything, so finding someone you trust for advice when things get tough can make all the difference.

Be emotionally aware. While many people advise keeping emotions separate from the matters of business of the club, your club membership is ulti-

mately about relationships between people, be sensitive to different points of view and ideas.

Never stop improving. Great leaders, great people are constantly learning and always trying to improve themselves. There's always something that you can work on or a new skill to master. Be sure to keep your mind open to new ideas and possibilities.

Captain Phillips from the American cargo ship that was hijacked in 2009 says that the following leadership tips will help anyone:

You are stronger than you know.

As a leader, hope for the best, but plan for the worst.

One crazy idea will make someone else think of a new idea.

Be flexible. Every voyage is different.

As a leader you must remain calm. Don't let emotions get in the way.

In tough and changing times, you must unite as a team.

Critique your successes and failures after any voyage.

Make honest and ethical decisions, your crew will follow.

Explore the Seas of Communication

Carol Jablonski, GFWC Illinois Communications & Public Relations Chairman

See the flag on that boat? You know what it represents, right? Of course you do! It's a symbol of our country. Stay with me now. Does your club's logo have instant recognition in your community? Why or why not? What is your club doing to promote itself?

Just as these logos represents GFWC Illinois and GFWC, your club's logo can bring instant recognition to members of your community. Getting your club's name out into your community is a constant task, mainly because there are so many ways to get your club's name and its good works out into the public eye.



Assessment. First your board of directors should give direction to a person or committee things for the committee and/or chairman to consider:

- How does your club currently get your messages out to your community?
- Are they effective? Could they be better?
- How can they be even better?

Fly some flags/try something new. Want to get started? Here's some ideas:

- How about holding a contest at the local high school or community college to redesign your logo? Or a contest to design or redesign your club's website? Don't forget to fund that committee so that a prize/scholarship (money) is awarded to the winner. Don't forget to promote the contest and the winner.
- Interview some of the entrants to your contest. Find out what social media they use to communicate and why.

➤ This would also be a good time to interview your club members. Do they use computers? Smart phones? Email? Look at websites? What would they like to learn? Why and why not?

➤ How about setting up a Facebook account for your club? Instagram? Snapchat? Twitter? And no, you're not too old to tweet.

➤ How about a program on how to use Facebook, or Instagram, Snapchat or Twitter? Or, getting the most from your smartphone? My home club had a program on just this topic; how to acquire and use some of the more popular 'apps' (applications).

➤ Want to set up an email account? No computer? Does your local library have computers for their patrons? Bingo! Ask a librarian for help, or have a meeting/program at your library on how to start using email if a number of members don't have or use email. If it's a small number, make it a social night at the library.

Did you know that sharks must always move in order to live? Keep your club moving too. Promoting your club, its programs and projects are a constant project for a committee or chairman, and rank right up there with the most important committees/chairmanships your club has.



GFWC and Membership

Alice Betlach, GFWC Illinois Membership Chairman

Ideas for Your First Club Meeting of the New Administration

ENCOURAGE ATTENDANCE AT ALL GENERAL CLUB MEETINGS with the opportunity to receive next year's club dues paid.

- ♣ Each member receives a ticket each time she attends a general club meeting. At the end of the club year, a ticket will be drawn for a free club membership for the next year.
- ♦ Using multiple decks of playing cards, each member receives a playing card each time she attends a general club meeting. At the end of the club year, the member with the best 5 card hand wins a free club membership for the next year. NOTE: Members are not allowed to accept or exchange a card(s) with another member.

Schedule Extra Time for Members to Socialize at the first meeting of the club year. It is always fun to find out what everyone did or went during the club's summer break.

How about an ice breaker? After a long summer break, introductions may be needed to help "refresh" our memories of members' name. Have each member introduce herself and answer a question with a "short" reply, i.e. "Where did you go this summer?"

GOAL SETTING FOR MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

The future of a club depends on its ability to maintain and increase its membership. Set an attainable goal for each member such as:

- ♥ Invite at least one prospective member to a meeting or club event
- ♠ Distribute a GFWC/club brochure to a prospective member or distribute in a place of business for clients/customers to pick it up
- ♣ Participate in planning a membership recruitment activity.

These activities will result in new members!

GFWC'S "IT'S THE REAL DEAL" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

Bridge the Gap



September, October and November

Report Due December 1.

Join GFWC clubs nationwide in our popular membership recruitment campaign.

Visit www.GFWC.org, under Members tab, Recruitment Campaign, Recognition, for a copy of the **GFWC Recruitment Campaign Report Form**.

Recruitment Grants Available

GFWC grants are available to clubs to assist with recruitment efforts and to districts to assist with club building efforts. Funds are designated each GFWC fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30 to help underwrite membership recruiting and rebuilding in your community. GFWC offers \$50 for club member recruitment programs. **Winter seasonal recruitment membership grants application deadline is December 1, 2016**

Visit www.GFWC.org, under Members, Recruitment Campaign, Membership Grant for a copy of the **Membership Grant Application Form**. A grant form is also attached. You must return the application form to GFWC Headquarters at least 45 days prior to your event.

While a GFWC club or district may submit grant applications for separate events, GFWC will award a maximum of one grant per club/district per GFWC fiscal year.





News From Our Clubs

Femme Unir Women's Club of Bartonville, IL, District 16, volunteered at their local library's 2nd Annual Concert in the Park. The Femmes helped the library with the set up and tear down and ran the concession stand. The Femmes raised over \$200 for the library in one night selling donated baked goods and other concessions. The Femmes wore their purple t-shirts to represent the club and entice new members to join.



Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, District 5, was the winner in the Community Contribution Category for the 5th Annual Chamber 630 Annual Awards on August 24th.

We will periodically feature clubs in action. Send your submission to Carol Jablonski, carolajablonski@att.net.

Receiving this email forwarded from a friend?
[Click](#) to sign up to receive Key Notes directly to your inbox!

This message was sent from:

GFWC Illinois | 5 E Van Buren Street | Joliet, IL 60432-4224



Life members of Marengo Woman's Club, District 4, gathered for this photo opportunity.



St. Jude Walk/Run To End Childhood Cancer: 9-24-16

GFWC Illinois has created a virtual team for this event for those physically unable to participate in the event being held throughout the country. To donate to this go to: http://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?pg=team&fr_id=57417&team_id=188729

Or, go to http://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?team_id=188729&pg=team&fr_id=57417

Or, go to stjude.org, click on Ways to Give tab, then click on Support an Event participant on the left, then Search for a Team, and type in GFWC Illinois and press Search. That should bring you to the GFWC Illinois' Virtual Team page. Please follow the instructions to donate.

Thank you for supporting this GFWC and GFWC Illinois partner.